



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2008

DTRA Solicits Proposals for Basic Research Grants to Combat WMDs

FORT BELVOIR, Alexandria, VA – In an effort to improve basic research to counter weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) announced June 2 that it will award 50 to 80 grants to interested universities and government laboratories.

These three- to five-year grants will be awarded for basic research in five major categories: the science of sensing and recognition; cognitive and information science; science for protection; science to defeat WMD; and science to secure WMD.

“Our basic research program encourages advances in scientific understanding that may contribute to national defense and in particular to our counter WMD mission,” said Joan Ma Pierre, Director for Basic and Applied Research at DTRA. “The output of basic research forms a foundation for the technical knowledge necessary to envision new concepts of missions and operations that are the focus of applied research and development programs.”

In Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07), DTRA awarded 36 grants totaling more than \$19 million to universities in the United States. In FY08, DTRA expanded the grant program to include government laboratories, private sector companies with university partners and foreign universities. The FY08 awards have a potential value of nearly \$49 million. In FY09, DTRA plans to award between 50-80 grants to universities, laboratories and private sector partners (with significant university participation).

To apply for a grant, go to www.grants.gov. The announcement number is HDTRA 1-08-10-BRCWMD-BAA titled “FY2008-2010 Basic Research for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Broad Agency Announcement.” The deadline for submitting a grant application is July 14, 2008.

DTRA safeguards the United States and its allies from weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high explosives) by providing capabilities to reduce, eliminate and counter the threat and mitigate its effects. This combat support agency serves as the intellectual, technical, and operational leader for the Department of Defense in the national effort to combat weapons of mass destruction. Established in 1998, this year DTRA celebrates 10 years of creative solutions through teamwork.